WASHINGTON, D.C. – USCM President LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa today issued the following statement after the Senate voted 74-22 to approve a surface transportation bill that includes America Fast Forward:

"The bipartisan effort to create jobs and speed expansion of our transportation systems took a major step forward today with Senate passage of a surface transportation bill that includes America Fast Forward. Sen. Barbara Boxer and Sen. James Inhofe showed remarkable bipartisan leadership on this bill. The surface transportation bill passed today by the US Senate will save or create 1.8 million jobs nationwide. The America Fast Forward component can create up to 1 million additional jobs across the country.

The nation's mayors are now calling on both parties in the House to put politics aside and pass a job-creating transportation bill that includes America Fast Forward. If the House passes a transportation bill with America Fast Forward, local transit agencies will be able to compete for $2 billion in low-interest TIFIA loans. In Los Angeles, this will allow us to create 166,000 jobs now by accelerating bus and rail projects."

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About The U.S. Conference of Mayors: The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,210 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/usmayors, or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/usmayors (www.usmayors.org).